

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2011 TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CONFERENCE (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct the 2011 Transition Age Youth Conference, to be held on May 17, 2011, at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities.

REQUEST

Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Conference on Mental Health (TAY Conference) to be held on May 17, 2011, at an estimated cost of \$30,000, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Support (CSS) Plan funds; authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment Center) for site, technical support and catering services for the conference, and to make a payment to the Endowment Center, or its designee, at a total estimated cost of \$10,000; authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for County employees, consumers, and family members attending the conference as an exception to Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, of the Los Angeles County Code, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the TAY Conference on May 17, 2011, at the Endowment Center. This conference is to increase awareness, improve treatment outcomes, explore best practices, and improve integration with community-based organizations serving TAY. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with the Department's MHSA Plans and the goals of promoting hope, wellness and recovery.

The TAY Conference will highlight the most current treatment intervention strategies implemented through the MHSA CSS and PEI Plans. Additionally, the conference will present information on other successful strategies for leveraging non-Mental Health services and supports that are critical to TAY consumers' focus on hope, wellness, and

self-sufficiency. Youth and young adult mental health consumers and volunteers will participate in all aspects of planning and hosting the conference.

BACKGROUND

A significant investment in training of staff and community partners across the entire service delivery spectrum is required to ensure the success of the MHSA Plans. These MHSA Plans represent a systemic change in the manner in which mental health services and supports are being delivered in the County; as well as a primary focus on hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency for impacted youth and young adult consumers. The TAY Conference will provide a much needed opportunity for consumers and stakeholders to gather, gain skills and competencies, and share their wisdom and expertise as pertains to serving the SED and SPMI youth and young adult population.

This is an all day conference with approximately 300 participants which include consumers, family members, providers, and DMH employees. Catering services are needed because many of the consumers attending the conference do not have the financial resources to pay for breakfast and lunch and/or lack the transportation resources to access a restaurant and have breakfast and lunch within the allocated break times. Serving breakfast and lunch at the conference also provides consumers with the opportunity to network and share personal resources.

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute an agreement with the Endowment Center to guarantee space, catering services, and other support for the conference and provide DMH with the necessary authority to expend funds in support of the conference.

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